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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/30/96**

UA 126/96 **Possible "Disappearance"** **22 May 1996**

EAST TIMOR **Antonio (last name not known)**

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety and whereabouts of an East Timorese man, Antonio, who was believed to have been arrested by the Indonesian Armed Forces from the town of Same in south-central East Timor on or around 13 May.

Antonio, about 47 or 48 years old, was arrested at the Parish Church at Same, approximately 150 km south of East Timor's capital, Dili, by soldiers from the Indonesian Special Forces Command (*Kopassus*). Antonio was seen leaving the church in the custody of the soldiers but it is not known where he was taken. Later, the same *Kopassus* soldiers returned to the church declaring that Antonio had "run away", and suggested that he may have gone to join the East Timorese armed resistance movement.

Antonio has not been seen since his arrest and local residents are concerned that he may have been killed by the soldiers. Their fears are heightened by reports that in the last month, *Kopassus* soldiers, have been targeting members of the parish in Same for their alleged links with the East Timorese resistance. It is believed that in April, *Kopassus* troops arrested several people from the parish, but it is not known how many were arrested or for how long they were detained. It is believed that they have all since been released.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Arbitrary detention, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions of individuals suspected of involvement with the resistance continue in East Timor. The risk of human rights violations is increased by restrictions placed by the Indonesian authorities on access to East Timor for independent human rights monitors and foreign journalists. In January 1995, five East Timorese men "disappeared" after being arrested in Dili. In February 1995, East Timor's Police Chief announced an inquiry into the fate of the five, but Amnesty International is not aware of any progress made by the inquiry.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:
- asking for clarification of Antonio's whereabouts, the reason for his arrest and, if he is still detained, details of any specific charges against him;
- urging that if he is no longer in custody, the authorities hold an immediate inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his arrest and his current whereabouts;
- urging that the authorities take measures to ensure that any arrests are carried out only by the police force, in accordance with Indonesian domestic law;
- urging that families are immediately informed of a detainee's whereabouts and that detainees have prompt access to independent legal counsel.

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APPEALS TO:

Military Commander Region IX/Udayana
(covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and
East Timor)
Maj Gen Benyamin L.S. Mamuaya
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
Denpasar
Bali
Indonesia
Telegrams: Pangdam IX, Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Major Gen. Mamuaya

Commander Resort Military Command (Korem) 164/Wiradharma
(covers East Timor)
Col. Mahidin Simbolon
Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma
Dili
East Timor
(Indonesia)
Faxes: +62 390 21 624
Telegrams: Korem 164/Wiradharma, Dili, East Timor, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Col. Mahidin Simbolon

COPIES TO:

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and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 July 1996.